Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Space, Time and Gravitation. An Outline of the General Relativity Theory. By A. S. EDDINGTON. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, second impression, 1921.—pp. viii, 220.

The "Preface" and "Prologue" of Professor Eddington's book furnish an admirable summary of the 'popular' accounts of Einstein's work, so that the layman might begin to wonder what more there could possibly be to write about. One soon finds, however, that in comparison with this volume, the ordinary expositions suffer from over-clearness; that they cover up or pass over many essential features of the Theory because, presumably, the writers doubt the ability of their readers to comprehend more than a modicum of the results achieved.

Professor Eddington, wisely, it seems to the reviewer, takes a different attitude; he is more interested in provoking thought than in simplification of explanation. The unscientifically trained reader will at least learn a healthy respect for the difficulties involved in the details of modern physical explanation, and a new conception of the magnitude of Einstein's work. Besides being as complete an account as could well be made at the present stage in the development of the consequences of the Theory though not, perhaps, as unequivocal on some points as might be desired, and with some rather technical terminology left unexplained for the average reader, the book contains many interesting remarks of an extra-scientific character. It is pointed out that the Relativity Theory not only satisfies the usual requirements of economy of thought and range of application, but also reveals a host of unconscious assumptions implied in earlier theories. "Certain hypotheses enter into all physical descriptions and theories hitherto current, dating back in some cases for 2000 years, in other cases for 200 years. It can now be proved that these hypotheses have nothing to do with any phenomena yet observed, and do not afford explanations of any known fact. This is surely a discovery of the greatest importance—quite apart from any question as to whether the hypotheses are actually wrong" (p. 29).

Perhaps not all physicists will accept the author's view that geometrical principles are more fundamental than physical particles; that the latter are not fundamental in the sense that they have no meaning in themselves but must be thought of in connection with their respective 'fields.' "It is all a tangle of relations; physical theory starts with the simplest constituents, philosophical theory with the most familiar constituents. They may reach the same goal; but their methods are often incompatible" (p. 166). As an example of the above proposition Professor Eddington might have cited the fact that Kant long ago taught that space and time are only subjective ways of looking at things and not independent entities in the world outside us as some would have us believe. This is of course also an implicit conclusion of Einstein's, though based upon quite different considerations from those of Kant. The doubt which arises in our minds as to the sufficiency of formal, *i.e.*, geometrical, quantities to satisfy the demands of physical knowledge, the author considers baseless; "Distinction of form is the only distinction that physics can recognize; and distinction of individuality, if it has any meaning at all, has no bearing on physical manifestations" (p. 175).

The last chapter of the book, "On the Nature of Things," contains much of a semi-philosophical nature, intended rather to stimulate reflection than to present any definite conclusions of the author. There is also an appendix containing some brief mathematical notes and a historical note. Written in a lively style, and containing so many interesting suggestions, the book is only the more valuable because it does not leave the reader certain that he fully understands Einstein's great achievement. And after all, this is only fair; whereas the popular expositors often create the impression that they, at least, understand the Theory fully, the reader of Professor Eddington's work will learn that not even the initiated are yet in a position to estimate its real significance for science and philosophy. There are many details yet to be threshed out, and extensions or modifications to be initiated, before a complete estimate of results can be made. One thing, however, is fairly certain, namely, that there is an objective order of events in the world outside us, which, while independent in a sense of purely subjective factors, nevertheless reflects the presence of a rational principle in the objective universe.

H. R. SMART.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

The following books also have been received:

Arabic Thought and its Place in History. By DE LACY O'LEARY. New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1922.—pp. viii, 320.

The Political Theory of Dante Alighieri. By JOHN JOSEPH ROLBIECKI. Washington, Catholic University of America, 1921.—pp. 156.

Philosophy in the Development of Law. The Modern Legal Philosophy Series, vol. XIII. By PIERRE DE TOURTOULON. Translated by MARTHA McC. READ. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1922.—pp. lxii, 654.

The Origin of Letters and Numerals. According to the Sefer Yetzirah. By PHINEAS MORDELL. Philadelphia, Phineas Mordell, 1922.—pp. 72.

The Reconstruction of Religion. A Sociological View. By CHARLES A. ELLWOOD. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1922.—pp. xviii, 324.

The Theory of Mind as Pure Act. By GIOVANNI GENTILE. Translated from the third edition with an introduction, by H. WILDON CARR. London, Macmillan and Company, 1922.—pp. xxviii, 280.

A Faith That Enquires. The Gifford Lectures, 1920–1921. By SIR HENRY JONES. London, Macmillan and Company, 1922.—pp. x, 362.

Benedetto Croce. An Introduction to his Philosophy. By RAFFAELLO PICCOLI. New York, Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1922.—pp. xiv, 316.

The New Idealism. By MAY SINCLAIR. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1922.—pp. xviii, 334.